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BSNews

MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL BUILDING SERVICES

22

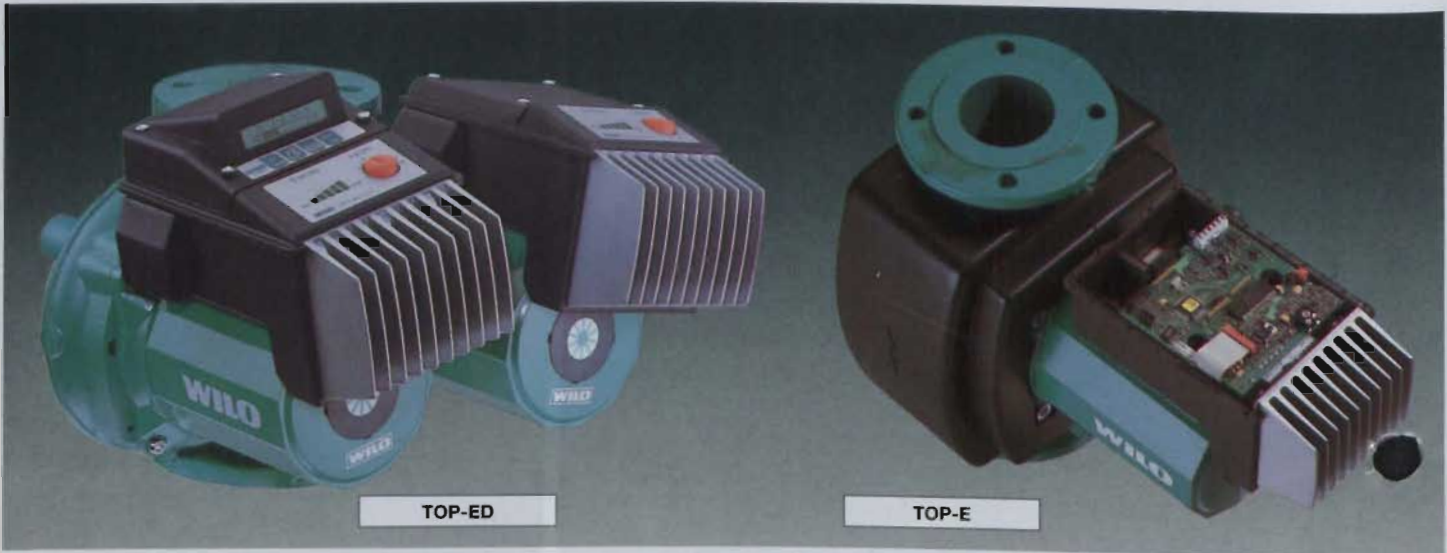


INSIDE

- Romplas: From Ballyhaunis to Singapore!
- Ventac and S&P Dynamic Ventilation Partnership
- Vehicle Air Conditioning

- Facilities Management Revolution

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BSNews*

MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL
BUILDING SERVICES

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Readership Data

Irish Building Services News (formerly Irish H&V News) is Ireland's only Building Services magazine providing coverage of the heating, ventilating, air conditioning, refrigeration, sanitaryware, plumbing, maintenance and environmental industries. It is the only publication catering exclusively for these industries and its circulation includes members of the following:-

Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE); The Mechanical Engineering & Building Services Contractors' Association (MEBSCA); Irish Property & Facilities Managers Association (IPFMA); The Irish Home Builders Association (IHBA); Architectural Practices; The Mechanical Engineering Contractors' Association; The Institute of Domestic Heating Engineers (IDHE); The Maintenance, Energy & Environmental Technology Association (MEETA) which incorporates energy managers and maintenance managers; The Institute of Plumbing; Builders Merchants; Trade Supply Outlets; and selected members of the Association of Electrical Contractors of Ireland (AECI).

In addition, Irish Building Services News circulates to independent building services contractors and key executives in industry, Government, Semi-State and local authority bodies.

OPINION

BSNews Buyer Guide... Don't Miss Out!

With over 4000 cross-referenced, indexed, mechanical and electrical product details, the BSNews Building Services Buyer Guide is the definitive "who represents whom" of the industry. Regarded as the specifying/purchasing "Bible", it is widely used on a daily basis by specifying mechanical and electrical consultants, architects, services engineers, maintenance managers, refrigeration engineers, installers, plumbers, builders merchants, wholesalers, home builders and commercial builders. We are now in the course of preparing the forthcoming edition.

To ensure inclusion all product suppliers should return their entry forms as soon as possible.

Those on the BSNews mailing list will automatically receive a personal copy of the Buyer Guide on its publication later this year. Orders for additional copies should be placed NOW!

Contact: Edel Burke @ Tel: 01 - 288 5001

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Building Services At Plan Expo

Building Services at Plan Expo is a fresh initiative for the construction industry's premier exhibition showcase. Representing a dedicated section within the overall show, it will comprise building services products on stands which will be strategically located around a continuous central Skills Demonstration Area.

This area will feature the skills of plumbing and heating students from Bolton Street College of Technology and is being coordinated by Seamus Murrin of the Faculty of the Built Environment, DIT,

at the college.

"This initiative is an ideal opportunity for us to demonstrate the wealth of skills we have within building services at the college, right across the full spectrum of our student base. Over the years we have performed with distinction at international events, frequently winning gold, silver and bronze medals, along with any number of commendations.

"Building Services at Plan Expo gives us the opportunity to show the Irish construction sector just what these students have to offer, while at the same time affording the students the experience of performing before an audience of their peers and potential employers".

The Skills Demonstration Area will be surrounded by stands occupied by leading building services suppliers, among them being Sanbra Fyffe, Shires and Wavin. Apart from their own displays, the students will also be working with representative samples from each of these ranges.

The intention is for the students to install complete heating and bathroom installations throughout the day, every day. They will be working with boilers, pipework, sanitaryware, pumps, bathroom fittings, etc.

Dates are 5/6/7 November 1998. Venue is RDS, Main Hall Complex.

If you wish to participate in this initiative, call Garret Buckley or Stephan Murtagh at Tel: 01 - 295 8181.

FÁS Graduation Day

The first group of apprentices to graduate under the new Standards Based Apprenticeship system were presented with their National Craft Certificates by An Tánaiste, Mary Harney, TD at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham recently. To coincide with the graduation FÁS has published recent statistics which reveal that apprenticeship numbers have risen dramatically over the last year. In total 13,978 persons were registered with FÁS on apprenticeship courses at the end of December 1997. A 50% increase was recorded in first year registrants, from 3,861 in 1996 to 5,794 in 1997. The report examined the educational qualifications of young persons who took up apprenticeships. Over 55% of those who began their apprenticeship in 1997 had Leaving Certificate standard. The number of women entering apprenticeships has increased by 30 when compared to the same period for 1996. However, the number remains very low in overall terms, at less than 1%.

DC Opens Dublin Showroom

DC Heating & Plumbing, one of Dublin's top natural gas central heating companies, has opened its own showrooms at 103 Malahide Road, Donnycarney, Dublin.

Representatives from Bord Gáis joined in the festivities, including Gerry Geoghagan, as well as the famous Bord Gáis teddybears. Other suppliers present were John Duignan from C&F Quadrant; Oliver Edwards from GEC; and Malcolm Goggin from Creda. Celebrations were kicked off by local TD Ivor Callely who performed the official opening of the showrooms.

Says Managing Director Dave Cranston: "Not only was the launch a great event which brought all our suppliers together, but it has succeeded in increasing customer awareness, leading directly to an expansion of appliance and heating sales".

Photo shows Gerry Geoghagan, Bord Gáis with Ivor Callely (local TD), and Lorraine and Dave Cranston, DC Gas.



Apprentice Plumber of the Year



Alan Elmes, a fourth year apprentice from Baldoyle, Dublin 13, is the National Apprentice Plumber of the Year for 1998. His win at the recent Aer Rianta/Department of Education National Apprentice Competition provides Alan with the opportunity to represent Ireland in the International Youth Skills Competition in Canada in 1999. Alan is employed with H A O'Neill Ltd. Alan Elmes (3rd right) is pictured receiving the Wavin Cup from Leo Tolan, Wavin Ireland, who are the sponsors. Also in the picture are Seamus Murrin, Dublin Institute of Technology, Bolton Street (2nd right) and three of the finalists in the competition - Jamie Naughton, Newbridge; Oliver Craughwell, Ballinasloe and Alan O'Brien, Cork.

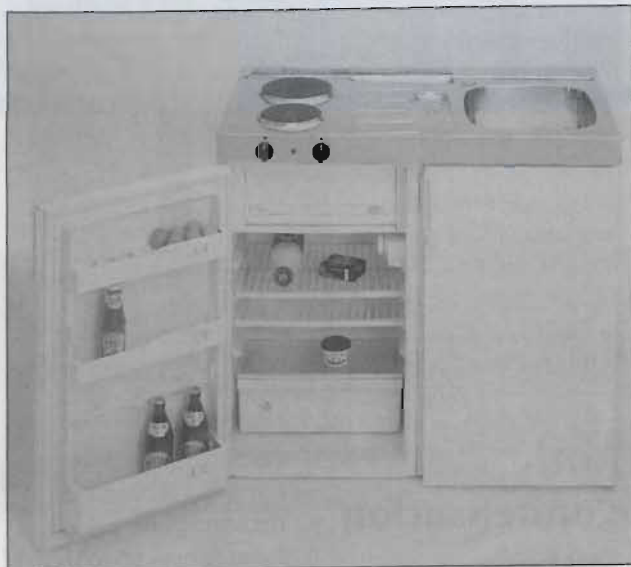
TRADE AND PRODUCT NEWS

Sanbra Fyffe Kitchen Solutions

Sanbra Fyffe Ltd has been appointed exclusive importer and distributor for Ireland of the Intra Group range of mini and compact kitchens.

The Intra Group – who manufacture an extensive range of minikitchen design and size options – are market leaders in Germany and Scandinavia. The Intra Mini Kitchen range includes basic pantry top with sink bowl and hot plates to complete cabinets

The Mini and Compact Kitchen range is the ideal solution for studio apartments, student hostels, bedsits, nursing homes, retirement flats and mobile homes. The range offers many solutions from a basic pantry top to complete compact kitchen. Unit size options from 500mm to 1500mm are available, and additional appliances such as microwave, freezer or dishwasher may be fitted.



The Intra KKR 101/102 unit from Sanbra Fyffe.

featuring microwave and dishwasher. The Intra design is modern and highly-functional, and provides the ideal solution in those confined situations where space is at a premium.

The mini kitchen is also easy to handle as all units are pre-assembled and ready to install with just standard plumbing required.

The KKR 101/102 unit has an 18/10 stainless steel (pantry top) with sink, drainer/drip tray and overflow, two variable speed hot plates. The base includes a fridge (capacity 140 ltr) and a 500mm storage cupboard in a steel construction.

Contact: Sanbra Fyffe Sales Office.
Tel: 01 - 842 6255;
Email: sales@sanbra-fyffe.ie

Prisma

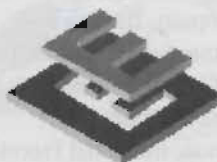
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West Dublin Gas Company



Pictured at the formal opening of the West Dublin Gas Company's new showrooms were Tom Higgins, Managing Director, West Dublin Gas; Minister for the Environment, Noel Dempsey, TD; and Lisa Delaney, Sales Manager, Bord Gáis. Tom has specialised in the natural gas market for the past nine years and chose to locate his new venture to capitalise on the 10,000 homes in the surrounding areas of Blanchardstown, Castleknock, Clonsilla, Coolmine and Mulhuddart.

JJ Sampson & Son Move

After 18 years in their former premises, JJ Sampson & Son Ltd have moved to new, purpose-designed, headquarters which are located on The Nangor Road Business Park, Nangor Road, Dublin 12.

This is an exclusive, modern development, ideally positioned with easy access to all the major primary roads in the vicinity, including the Naas Road and the M50.

This state-of-the-art, modern building incorporates extensive warehouse and storage facilities, along with offices, showroom and trade counter. There is also a lecture theatre, product training workshop, fully-equipped service workshop, and a computerised communications centre for control and maintenance

systems support.

Standing on a site of approximately half an acre, the covered area takes in 8500 sq ft. There is ample on-site parking, with easy access to despatch area for collections.

Telephone numbers, fax and eMail remain the same.

BSNews will have a full report on the move in the June issue.

Contact: John Sampson, Managing Director, JJ Sampson & Son; Dave Sampson, Heating & Burner Sales Division; Dave Killilea, Refrigeration & AC Sales Division; Leslie Mason, Industrial Process Sales Division; and Brian Maguire, HVAC Projects Sales Division.

Tel: 01 - 626 8111;
Fax: 01 - 626 9334;
eMail: sampson@indigo.ie

Stainless Steel Flowmeters

Dwyer Series SSM Flowmeters from Manotherm are specially designed with a unique magnetically-driven ball float flow indicator which is completely isolated from the flowing fluid by a 316 stainless pressure tube. As float rises with increasing flow, readings are determined by noting the position of the float through a clear polycarbonate outer tube which is affixed with a direct reading scale.

Built for safety, these rugged meters can withstand pressure to 1000 psig (68.9 bar) at 250°F (121°C). Optional construction enables operation to 600°F (316°C). They can handle a wide range of fluids compatible with 316 stainless steel, Alnico magnet and Viton® O-ring.

Five stocked models are now available with ranges as low as 0.2 to 5.4 GPM (0.76 to 20.4 LPM) up to 2 to 75 GPM (7.7 to 284 LPM). The three lower ranges are fitted with 3/4" NPTF

connections and the higher two with 1-1/2". All models are accurate to ±2% of full scale accuracy and repeatability is ±5% of indicated rate. Weight of 3/4" models is 5 lbs (2.3 KG) and 1-1/2" models 13 lbs (5.9 kg).

Contact: Bob Gilbert, Manotherm. Tel: 01 - 452 2335; Fax: 01 - 451 6919.

Right: Dwyer Series SSM stainless steel flowmeters from Manotherm.



Anti-Condensation System

Wallguard Ltd of Old Trafford, Manchester, has granted exclusive rights to sell its trickle ventilator product to Belfast builder Mike McFarlane, trading as Wallguard (N Ireland) Ltd, and Technocoat of Dublin who will serve the Republic of Ireland.

Fully accredited to ISO 9002 specifications, the trickle ventilator uses simple air pressure to remove water vapour from

affected buildings through a one-way filtered tube to the atmosphere outside. Inserted high up in the ceiling, the plastic fitting has no moving parts or motors and is also effective in clearing cigarette smoke and cooking smells.

Announcing the deal, Wallguard's Managing Director, Karl Wilby, said: "We have been exporting to Ireland with great success for several years to the point where we feel we can now accelerate sales considerably by forging direct trading agreements

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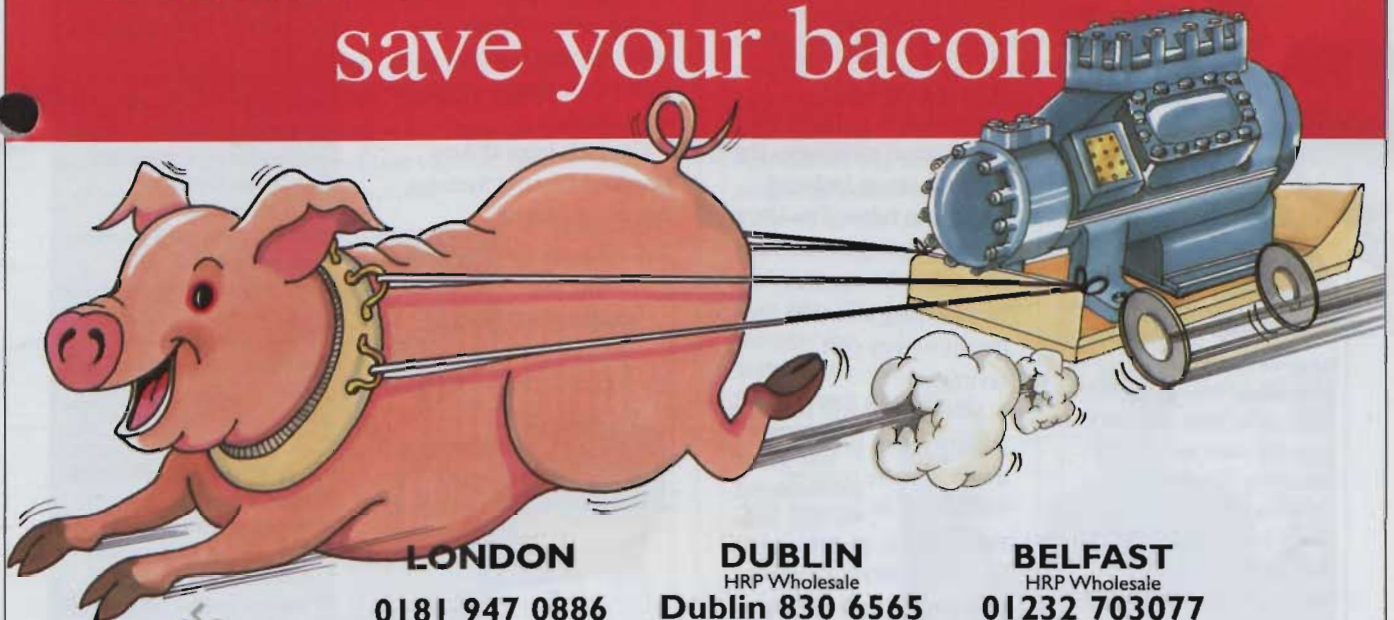
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TRADE AND PRODUCT NEWS

with these two well-established companies".

Technocoat's Chief Executive, Terry Coleman, commented: "Wallguard's anti-condensation system is the ideal complement to our textured wall coatings business. We are delighted to have this opportunity to broaden our product range".

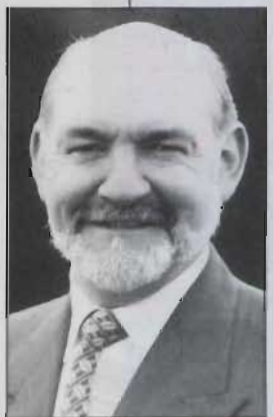
Contact: Terry Coleman, Technocoat.
Tel: 01 - 492 5541.

Cusack Appointed Wilo MD

Tony Cusack (below) has been appointed Managing Director of Limerick-based Wilo Engineering, the company responsible for sales and marketing of Wilo products in Ireland. It is one of two Limerick companies owned by the £300 million Wilo Salmson

AG which has its headquarters in Dortmund. The other, Wilo Pumps on the Raheen Industrial Estate, manufactures over two million pump motors a year for the

European market. Tony joined Wilo as a sales engineer in 1980 and has been the sales and marketing "face" of the company ever since. He is widely known and respected throughout the entire building services sector and BSNews joins with the industry in congratulating Tony on his new appointment.



Diarmuid O'Sullivan (left) Managing Director, Asea Brown Boveri Ltd (ABB) Ireland, with Percy Barnevik, Chairman of ABB, the world's largest electrical engineering company which employs more than 200,000 people in 1,000 companies worldwide. Percy Barnevik was the keynote speaker at this year's National Management Conference organised by the Irish Management Institute. Before becoming ABB chairman last year, the managers of Europe's top companies selected Percy Barnevik, for four consecutive years, as the CEO they most admired (Financial Times/Price Waterhouse Award).

Dri-Steem Humidifiers

The Dri-Steem Ultra-Sorb® duct steam dispersion tube humidifier panel provides virtually instantaneous absorption, allowing steam to be discharged into tight duct spaces where it previously would have been impossible.

The design of the Ultra-Sorb® panel eliminates the need for steam jacketed dispersion tubes. The Ultra-Sorb® dispersion tubes are hot only when actually humidifying and that means energy cost savings.

Ultra-Sorb® will function on any steam pressure down to mere ounces, allowing it to be used with boiler steam, as well as any of the Dri-Steem range of humidifiers such as steam-to-steam, liquid-to-steam, or Vaporstream electric models.

Ultra-Sorb® can be

supplied in sizes from 380mm square to 3050mm square for use in ducts or air handling units. Typical steam absorption distances are within 300mm in comparison to single tube units for which steam absorption distances can be up to 20 feet.

Contact: John D'Arcy, Standard Control Systems.
Tel: 01 - 624 6100.



Ultra-Sorb steam dispersion tube humidifier parcels from Standard Control Systems.

Ventilation Hygiene Update

Over the past few years the EU's "Workplace Directive" - which requires building owners to regularly clean, test and maintain mechanical ventilation systems - has been implemented in the legislation of some EU member states. Even so, there are many building owners of their air handling plant. There are also those who know that the hygiene condition of their plant is not acceptable, but don't know how to rectify the condition.

The Ventilation Hygiene Seminar, which runs regularly in England, has been updated to include introduction to the following guidelines and specifications of interest to those professionally involved with Building Services Maintenance and Occupational Hygiene.

- 'Standard Specification for Ventilation Hygiene' by Building Services and Research Association, BSRIA;
 - The 'Building Healthcheck' by the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE);
 - 'Air Quality Regulations 1997' and the new 'WHO Air Quality Guidelines';
 - Guide to Good Practice Cleaning of Sheet metal Ventilation Systems' by Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association (HVCA).
- Practical advice is further provided on hygiene problem areas and methods of inspection and cleaning of ventilation systems. Participants are provided with extensive documentation. The one day seminar is organised by Montana Corporation at the headquarters of Building Services Research and Information Association (BSRIA) in Bracknell, outside London, and in Manchester. To request further information on the seminars contact Montana Corporation on Tel: 0044 181 944 6688; Fax: 0044 181 947 6697; or by e-mail: info@moncorp.com

Win With Grundfos



The latest Win With Grundfos special promotion culminated recently with the presentation of the top prize to overall winner Dermot Elmes of Glow Gas, Baldoyle, Co Dublin.

The promotion centred on the theme "Win a Holiday for Two to Florida" and ran from last September right through to the Spring of this year. Mini prizes were presented along the way, a total of 48 individual winners receiving awards in October, November, January and February.

All then went forward for the grand final draw, Dermot Elmes emerging the overall winner.

Photo shows Frank Gilsenan, Gas & Oil Parts, Rialto pictured with Dermot Elmes, Glow Gas, Baldoyle and Ray Broughan, Grundfos Ireland.

Grundfos Extends AP Sewage Range

Grundfos has extended its AP Sewage range of waste water pumps. There are four new, larger, additions to the AP family, catering for solids of up to 130mm in diameter. They are the AP 80.150.xx (new); AP 100.150.xx (extended); AP 100.200.xx (extended); AP 130.250.xx (new).

Flows of up to 280 litres per second (AP 130) can be achieved and heads of up to 45 metres (AP80). These new AP pumps are equipped with motor sizes from 17kW (P1) to 45kW (P1), depending on the model. All of the new range are suitable for horizontal or

vertical installation, as well as for dry-pit or submerged applications. For applications involving the risk of explosion, the AP80 and AP130 are also available in EEx de IIB T4 explosion-protection classification, according to EN standards 50 014/18/19 - 1977 (BS 5501).

All pumps are suitable for the following liquids:- raw sewage; wastewater; and large quantities of surface and groundwater with a PH value of 4 to 10.

They are intended for applications such as municipal pump pits; public buildings; blocks of flats; garages; underground car parks; car wash areas; restaurants; and hotels.

Contact: Gordon Barry, Grundfos Ireland Ltd.

Tel: 01 - 295 4926;

Fax: 01 - 295 4739.

Deviheat Underfloor Heating

Installing deviheat® underfloor heating has considerable benefits ... comfort, economy, environmental advantages and safety.

Deviheat® is a unique Danish product consisting of deviflex® electric heating cables, devireg® electronic thermostats, and devifast fixing strip. These products were developed and designed to operate together, so deviheat®, comprises a complete integral system.



Deviheat® is ideal for new and existing homes and buildings, and can be used under all floor coverings.

Contact:
De-Vi Heat.
Tel: 01 - 460 2622.

Deviheat® underfloor heating from De-Vi Heat Ltd.

Careers in Hardware

In the region of 1,300 new jobs are available in the hardware and allied trades this year. In the retail sector there are 1,000 jobs waiting to be filled and another 300 vacancies in companies supplying the trade. These job opportunities are revealed in a survey conducted by the Irish Hardware Association. To help fill these jobs the Association has launched a campaign to encourage more people to consider a career in the hardware sector.

Pictured at the launch of the campaign were left to right: Jim Goulding, Secretary General, Irish Hardware Association;

Tom Kitt, TD, Minister for State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with special responsibility for Labour Affairs; and Pat Byrne, President, Irish Hardware Association.





USING A PLASTIC PLUMBING SYSTEM COULD BE FULL OF SURPRISES

Let's face it, some events take you by surprise. And they can often cost more than the pounds in your pocket. What about your reputation? Can you really afford to play around with that? With a copper plumbing system you know you're



getting proven reliability and versatility. That's why it's been the professional's choice for the past forty years.

But, hey if it's surprises you like, don't mind me. I'll just get back in my box, Jack.

COMPANY PROFILE

Romplas Bathrooms ... from Ballyhaunis to Singapore

That Romplas Bathrooms is now Ireland's largest bath manufacturer is in no doubt. With an average of 600 units a week coming off the production line and 20ft/40ft containers (depending on country of destination) regularly being dispatched to every corner of the world, principal Tom Davy should be well pleased with the success of the venture to date.

Since acquiring the Britannia range and bringing it under the wing of Romplas Bathrooms, the collective strength of the Britannia and Romplas ranges now represents a massive choice of over 70 individual bath styles (see *BSNews* March '98).

Moreover, customers requiring custom-built, tailored designs featuring all manner of add-on features are also catered for. Typical example is the Classique whirlpool bath just shipped to a customer who specified 14 spa jets, underwater lights, multi-function electronic controls, variable speed blowers, self-draining pumps, low-level water sensor and eight side jets.

Tooraree in Ballyhaunis might, at first glance, seem an odd place to locate such a major manufacturing concern. "Not so", says Tom Davy. "Situated as we are on the main primary transport corridor between Dublin, Sligo and Galway, there are 12 shipping companies in the immediate vicinity whom we can, and do, tap into. It is a highly-efficient — and extremely cost-

effective — service, as these carriers are only too glad to fill what might otherwise be empty runs."

Standing on a 1.8-acre site, Romplas Bathrooms occupies a 28,000 sq ft building incorporating production area, offices, warehousing, showrooms, tooling and R&D facilities. Taken together, total investment to date is of the order of £2.5 million.

Plant and machinery is all state-of-the-art, the vast bulk being custom-built to Romplas Bathrooms' own specifications. Apart from Tom Davy, team leaders at Romplas Bathrooms include Robert Mooney, Brendan Quinn and Lil Hegarty.

To date the emphasis has been on securing and supplying export sales. In this respect Romplas Bathrooms has been extremely successful, an international team of appointed agents now serving customers in the UK, Russia, Sweden, Singapore, France, Germany, Holland, Cyprus, Spain, Greece, Italy, Norway and Denmark.

However, Tom Davy is now looking to Ireland. Both ranges are being actively sold through a network of builders merchants and other appropriate outlets.

Contact: Lil Hegarty, Romplas Bathrooms. Tel: 0907 - 30850.

Photo 1: The Sandringham Shell by Romplas.

Photo 2: The Warwick Shell by Romplas.

Photo 3: The York by Romplas.

Photo 4: The Richmond by Romplas.



Cleanroom Society – Momentum Gathering

The Irish Cleanroom Society (ICS) was formally and successfully launched at its inaugural meeting and seminar which was held at the Industry Centre on the UCD campus on 8 April last. The Society and the meeting were brought about as a result of the efforts of Peter Fernie of ElectroMat Ireland,



The newly-elected officers and committee of the Irish Cleanroom Society..

and a steering committee composed of professionals from cleanroom-related industries on both sides of the Border.

It was at a seminar in late 1997 – organised by Mr Fernie and presented by Dr Bill White of the Scottish Cleanroom Society (S2C2) – that the concept of an Irish cleanroom society was first proposed. It was pointed out that while Ireland has a large number of high-technology, cleanroom-based industries, it was without a forum where issues that faced these

industries could be discussed. In response to this need interested parties attending the meeting committed to a course of action that culminated with the meeting of 8 April.

While all members of the steering committee are to be congratulated for their contribution, special mention must be made of the leadership and energy generously given by Peter Fernie of ElectroMat and Peter Harland and Kevin Coakley of Harland Johnson & Co Ltd.

The April meeting and seminar was attended by over 120 professionals who represented a full cross-section of the industry. Included were attendees from the micro-electronic, pharmaceutical, optical, food, medical devices, biotechnology, research, hospital, design, construction, validation and supply industries. The Táiniste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment, Ms Mary Harney, sent her apologies and best wishes to the Society as she was unable to attend in person due to prior arrangements.

The meeting itself was split into three sections. Initially a presentation was made by Derek Heave of Robinson Keefe & Devane. This was followed by the actual inaugural meeting. The day was completed with a second seminar presented by Tom Hindmarch and George Birkett of North Tyneside College.

Mr Heave gave an impressive talk on the procurement of cleanroom facilities. Drawing on his experience from such high-profile projects as the design, planning and construction of Hewlett Packard Phase I, II, and III facilities, the phase II facility in particular contains what is generally regarded as the world's largest ballroom cleanspace environment at a staggering 14,000 sq m.

Mr Heave outlined the routes open to a plant manager when procuring cleanroom facilities. The talk encompassed all facets of cleanroom procurement, from the initial company commitment to the final hand-over of the completed cleanroom, including selection and assessment of a design team, the planning process itself, the contract, the contract on site, project close out, and certification.

The afternoon seminar was presented by Tom Hindmarch and George Birkett. The topic was cleanroom training. Both Mr Hindmarch and Mr Birkett were well qualified to speak on this topic as they both lecture at North Tyneside College. This institution was founded to facilitate the re-training of the north eastern English work force, from the traditional local heavy industries of mining and steel works, to new high-tech, cleanroom-based industries. The NTC is partially funded by the British Government and partly by the local cleanroom-based industries who use this facility to train and re-train their personnel in cleanroom protocol. The NTC operates a Class 100 cleanroom and as such is ideally suited to the training of cleanroom personnel. Both Mr Hindmarch and Mr Birkett stressed the need for the multi-media approach to training and demonstrated how effective such an approach could be with selected video clips and slides.

The actual inaugural meeting itself was bracketed by both of these excellent seminars. Each member in attendance was provided with a detailed meeting schedule and a Society constitution. Mr Fernie chaired a very efficient and businesslike meeting. Professor James Haughton of UCG was proposed and elected as the

Society's Honorary Secretary. Due to prior commitments Professor Haughton was unable to attend the meeting but an address was made on his behalf by Paul Farrelly of Hewlett Packard. Peter Fernie and Kevin Coakley were then elected as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Six committee members were elected from a group of nine candidates.

The members elected were: Peter Harland of Harland Johnson; Ms Siobhan Complisson of Fort Dodge Laboratories; Paul Farrelly of Hewlett Packard; Dr Tim Golden of Becton Dickinson; Gerry Kearns of Bioniche Teo; and Conor Murray of Ardmac Ltd.

The secretary, treasurer and committee members were charged with the responsibility of administering the future of this society. They committed to proceed with the affiliation of the ICS with the International Federation of Contamination Control Societies. A comprehensive directory of members will be compiled and circulated and this will be a very useful resource for all involved with cleanrooms in Ireland.

Furthermore, a commitment was made to organise and manage working groups dedicated to different cleanroom issues. They will be made up of committee members and industry experts. It is only through such working groups that the disparate concerns and needs of such a broad-based Society may be successfully addressed. Some proposed working groups include Information Technology; Microbiology and PR/Membership.

Information on ICS Working Groups, membership, or on any topic relating to cleanrooms are available from the following:

Kevin Coakley, Harland Johnson & Co. Tel: 01 - 830 0852;
e-mail: kcoakley@indigo.ie

Dr Tim Golden, Becton Dickinson.
Tel: 041 - 37721;
e-mail: paul_farrelly@hp.com

Peter Fernie, ElectroMat Ireland.
Tel: 091 - 790693; e-mail: emat@iol.ie

A Facilities Management Revolution

Something closely akin to a revolution is starting to take place in the way property services in Ireland are perceived, planned and changing. Business cultures and working practices are placing a growing pressure on all those involved to understand and operate a new range of strategies and skills.

To explore the needs of the changing workplace and the "best practice" in the fast-emerging profession of Facilities Management (FM), the Faculty of the Built Environment at Dublin Institute of Technology recently held a conference on the theme "Facilities Management – Present Practice and Future Prospects", at which leading authorities drawn from half a dozen European countries made presentations to an audience representing many of the leading players in the FM field in Ireland.

Strategic Trends

The top agencies in the FM industry today now accept the well-tried practices of performance-enhancing outsourcing and improved operational management as starting points. What they are now confronting, argued Oliver Jones, Director of Regus, in his keynote address, is a smarter, more strategic challenge that aims to free core business capital tied-up in facilities, at the same time as reducing costs and increasing quality. Among the most notable trends towards this are:

- ☐ The demise of the Full-Repairing-and-Insuring (FRI) lease;
- ☐ Shorter, more flexible, occupational leases;
- ☐ The spread of schemes such as the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) in the UK as government agencies recognise that they do not have to own an interest in property;
- ☐ The growth of securitisation as a means of funding projects such as the PFI;
- ☐ Traditional property firms having to become more service oriented;
- ☐ The emergence of new project-based consortia offering radically-structured property investment, development and management vehicles;
- ☐ Full service packages becoming the services environment norm, with purchasing power to the fore;
- ☐ Landlords recognising that a value-added service is vital, through shrewd investment, brand building, flexible offerings and valued service add-ins.

Benchmarking

No FM conference worth its salt would be complete without reference to the need for "benchmarking".

"Benchmarking is your key to becoming the best of the best", quoted Walther Moslener, the General Manager of ABS Consult System of Germany, who set about the task of answering some fundamental questions facing a facilities manager. These included:

• *continued next page*

BSNews F M F o c u s

- ☐ Which performance data do I need?
- ☐ How do I go about gathering effective reference data?
- ☐ How do I carry out benchmarking projects successfully?
- ☐ What factors are the most important in being successful?
- ☐ What should I particularly pay attention to?
- ☐ How do I apply the results most effectively?
- ☐ How can I improve my performance?

Outsourcing

In similar vein, Gerard Fagan, Director of Varmings McBain Cooper of Ireland, defined FM as "The process by which an organisation delivers and sustains agreed levels of support services in a quality environment at appropriate cost to meet the business needs". He concentrated on the role of the consultant in the vital process of "outsourcing" and identified four distinct past phases:-

- ☐ Cost reduction;
- ☐ Value for money and quality;
- ☐ Strategic involvement and partnering;
- ☐ PFI/PPP and "PRIME" contracts.

Greater competition in the future was inevitable, he argued, with value and risk management emphasised, and a range of new procurement strategies on offer. Contracts, however, must be to mutual benefit; service levels must match reasonable expectations; regular reviews and good communications are vital; the provision of a "help desk" is a critical ingredient; and a constant refocus on objectives and strategy's a must.

FM and IT

A highlight of the day's proceedings was the presentation by Paull Robathan, Executive Vice-President of CSK Software, who explored the

increasingly-virtual world of information technology as it impacts upon facilities management. He stressed that technology is a support for business if it is:

- ☐ Flexible, and allows business room to grow;
- ☐ Low cost, and secures entry to new markets;
- ☐ Planned ahead of demand;
- ☐ Buying capability, not boxes;
- ☐ Consistent, with open foundations;
- ☐ Provides clean interfaces to value-added applications.

Addressing the area of Computer Aided Design (CAD) and its application to FM, he stated that: "No other

- ☐ Space management;
- ☐ Furniture and equipment management;
- ☐ Property and lease management;
- ☐ Telecommunications and cable management;
- ☐ Building operations management;
- ☐ Enterprise wide links including CAD;
- ☐ Internet/Intranet;
- ☐ Executive Information Systems (EIS).

New Initiatives

The conference also marked the launch of Integrated Facilities Management Solutions, a joint initiative by BIC Systems and CRUBE (the Consultancy



Some of the speakers pictured at the property and facilities management conference at DIT recently were:- Andreas Wagenberg; Gerard Fagan; John Ratcliffe; Oliver Jones; Walther Moslener; Robert Teunissen; Bernard Williams; Richard Buckley; Tore Haugen; Keith Alexander; Jonathan Cowdock.

developer so dominates its field as Archibus does the field of computer-assisted facilities management. When you purchase an Archibus licence, you are buying into well-proven procedures, and not just the ability to link CAD with data".

This was a timely introduction to a talk on FM Automation by David Bole, a Director of BICS Systems of Ireland, which offers the Archibus system in Ireland, along with a range of other CAD and Computer-Assisted Facilities Management (CAFM) services. He explained that CAFM can help in:

and Research Unit for the Building Environment at DIT) aimed at providing a special service linking facilities management automation with information collection and training programmes. In this context, the organiser and chairman of the conference, John Ratcliffe, Director of the Faculty of the Built Environment, concluded by promising that the day's event was but a first step in marking the entry of DIT into the field of FM through specialist consultancy, applied research, and professional post-graduate education. The world awaits!

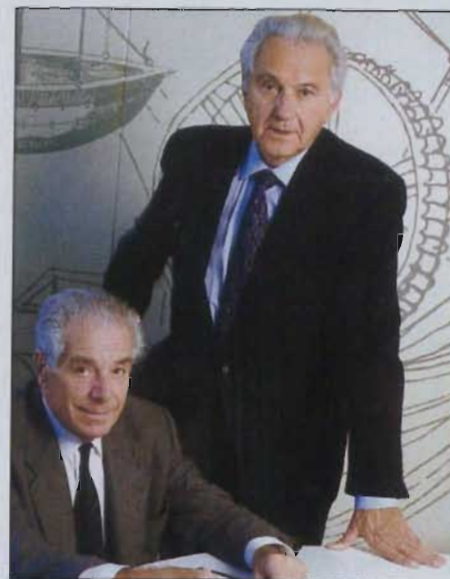
It is appropriate that Ventac Ltd is Soler & Palau's (S&P) Irish distributor. As trading partners they make the perfect combination ... both are strong on traditional values yet, at the same time, are innovative and dynamic. Over the last 25 years they have forged an extremely successful working relationship which has totally vindicated S&P's confidence in making Ventac its first export appointee back in 1973.

Today, Ventac is one of the leading market forces in the ventilation sector in Ireland. Its product portfolio is diverse and all-embracing, S&P being a very large and important element in this success story.

Over the years S&P has experienced remarkable growth. It is totally self-sufficient, has no borrowings, has financed all development phases out of its own resources, and has even gone so far as to build and establish its own educational institute where degree courses in ventilation are taught.

The story began in 1951 when the founders – Eduard Soler and Josep Palau – moved into a modest building of 114 m² (1,200 ft²) with a workforce of six people, including the two partners. Two years later the building had grown to 534 m² (6,000 ft²) and housed a foundry, a press shop and coil winding facilities, as well as an assembly section. By 1957 the factory had expanded to 1,700 m² (18,000 ft²), in order to house the expansion in production facilities to meet the growing demand for the product.

These early efforts, dedication, and above all commitment, were the foundations for a major expansion in 1961 which formed the beginnings of the present structure, the "Planta Puigmal", specifically constructed to house the company's aluminium, pressure and gravity die-casting facility, as well as the laboratories and the offices.



Dynamic Ventilation Partnership



Lineage Back to 15th Century

The county of Ripolles, situated in the north of Catalunya, Spain, is famous as the birthplace of iron working activity in the area. In the countryside surrounding Rippol, the capital of the county, are to be found some of the oldest forges where metal was already being worked in the 15th century.

It is thanks to this long history of metal working in the area – and to the skills of the local people – that new technologies and developments have been drawn to this area, giving rise to a network of companies with strong ties to Europe and the rest of the world.

Principal among these is Soler & Palau, one of the world's leading ventilation manufacturers.

A collection of various industrial fans and blowers, including axial, centrifugal, and mixed-flow types, displayed against a blue background. The fans vary in size, color (red, black, silver), and mounting style (square flange, round, etc.). Some are shown with their protective cages, while others are bare. The arrangement is a dense cluster, showcasing a wide range of industrial ventilation equipment.

Industrial Range



667 1077; Fax: 01 - 667 1055; Email: vent@iol.ie

Worldwide Group Structure

Today S&P is the biggest company in the ventilation sector in Spain and occupies a leading position in the world thanks to its policy of research and development, manufacture and distribution.

In Spain S&P operates with a main factory in Ripoll, together with three others, each specialising in different production processes. All this comprises a total factory area of 60,000 m² (650,000 ft²).

Outside of Spain, S&P has six subsidiary companies throughout Europe, plus one in Australia and one in Mexico. The subsidiary company in Mexico also has a manufacturing plant of 8,000 m² (85,000 ft²).



S&P – The Mark of Quality

The use of innovative procedures, together with the quality of S&P products, has been a byword from the very beginning.

Each department, from research and development to administration, through manufacturing, logistics and distribution, are dedicated to the fundamental principle of quality.

Due to this effort, in 1987 S&P were granted the BSI (British Standards Institute) quality control qualification under BS-5750 – ISO 9001.

Following this, S&P was the first Spanish company to obtain the certification under AENOR (Spanish Standards Association) for its quality control systems.

S&P's products are also certified for various independent institutions such as:-

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| ◆ VDE | ◆ UTE |
| ◆ DEMKO | ◆ SEMKO |



The Product Range

The S&P product range offers a wide variety of fans for all types of domestic, commercial and industrial applications.

The careful design and meticulous manufacture of S&P's products are renowned and held in high regard at international level, giving these products innovative aspects of design which make an important contribution in the ventilation field.

Ease of installation for the professional is a constant consideration for S&P. This area is given consideration even in the design and development stages of the products.

S&P products are renowned for their durability.

The careful selection of the materials used in the manufacture and production processes, considerably increases the working life of S&P products.

S&P's responsibility does not end with the creation of a range of esthetically-pleasing, functional, hardwearing and easy to install products that cover all needs. S&P has also put in place an extensive network of customer support facilities which can be availed of through Ventac.

Research & Development

The very latest equipment and facilities are available to the engineers and technicians in the R&D department in their quest to investigate, design, improve and test S&P products in extreme conditions prior to their launch on the market.

The laboratory, which is certified in accordance with EN 45001-89 standard by ENAC (National Accreditation Institute), is equipped with six aerodynamic test tunnels which comply with the AMCA and BS standards; a 100 m² (1100 ft²) semi-anechoic chamber which allows for the measurement of sound levels of fans and ventilators over the whole of their working curve; plus environmental simulation chambers.

Furthermore, S&P has invested in a specific laboratory for motors and electronic components.

New Requirements for Gas Installations in Educational Establishments

The use of gas in schools in many areas pre-dates the arrival of mains electricity. The wonder fuel of the day — coal gas — allowed students and teachers alike not only to extend their work and study periods in comfort and safety, but also to avail of the wonder teaching aid of their day, the Bunsen burner.

Many things have changed since then, but the Bunsen burner is still a much-relied upon device.

Today, every school at second and third level is equipped with science labs, home economics labs, or practical work areas.

Positive advances have been made in the area of user safety of the appliances used in schools today and they, as a result, are safer and better built than ever before. Nonetheless, bodies concerned with the safe use of gas in teaching establishments in Ireland recently asked the NSAI to look at the safety of "domestic"-type gas appliances in use in schools. A special working group of the Gas Technical Safety Committee took on this task.

Some of the concerns raised were the availability of flammable gas during non-teaching hours; pupils

accessing a teaching space containing gas equipment without permission, etc, etc. Age old realities like the natural exuberance of youth were also considered. In the final analysis sufficient concern emerged to warrant the existence of a special standard requirement.

The working group moved quickly, consulted with interested parties, and produced a draft of special requirements. The NSAI then sought public comment and, after completion of the due process, a new set of requirements is now ready for publication.

The Irish Standard, 813 "Domestic Gas Installations" has been amended (amendment No 1) by the NSAI to include Annex J "Gas Installations in Schools and Other Educational Establishments."

Educational establishments include schools, colleges, universities, teaching laboratories in hospitals or medical schools, institutes of technology etc, using either Natural Gas or LPG for teaching purposes.

All appliances in such establishments are now required to have a flame supervision device fitted to all its burners, thus ensuring that

unlit gases cannot accumulate or be inadvertently released to atmosphere.

As fitting such a device is difficult to achieve, in practise, on open cooker hobs, Bunsen burners, small kilns etc, an equally-safe alternative is also allowed.

By fitting a pressure-proving valve with an on/off key to the gas supply to each teaching space, each time a teacher commences a class/lecture the gas system can be proved sound. On completion of the class, the gas system is safely locked, until the next teacher operates the key switch.

Other safety issues such as secure bench taps and the need for regular servicing and testing of devices are also included in the new requirement.

Non-domestic gas installations in these establishments such as heating plant, canteens etc, are not covered by the new requirements ... ICP 4 still applies in these instances.

If you wish to purchase a copy of IS 813 it will now include the new Annex J, but if you have a copy IS 813, already, Annex J is available as an insert.

Contact: Publications Department, NSAI, Glasnevin, Dublin 9.
Tel: 01 - 807 3800.

IDHE Diploma Course

The IDHE Diploma Course will commence in September 1998 under the auspices of DIT Bolton St. This is a two-year, part-time programme and successful students will be eligible to apply to be members on successful completion of the course examination.

The IDHE Diploma has significant standing in building services and is considered the primary educational qualification in this industry sector.

The programme includes modules on heating design, systems, management, estimating and fuel technology.

Those interested in further information and enrolling for IDHE Diploma courses can contact the IDHE at Tel: 01 - 677 8180.

AGM Date and Venue Change

Because of construction work at the Engineers Club, the venue for the IDHE AGM (as reported in our last issue) has now been changed to the Doyle Tara Hotel, Rock Road, Blackrock, Co Dublin. The date has also been changed to 23 June.

Energy Savings in Motive Power Applications

Over half of Ireland's industrial electricity bill is accounted for by general motive power applications, excluding compressed air. The potential for energy saving in this area is substantial. Typically, a plant could cut its electricity bill by 10% by seriously tackling its motive power applications. Buying a new energy-efficient motor instead of a new standard motor will usually yield a payback of less than six months, while the replacement of an existing standard motor with a new energy-efficient model provides a payback of three years or less. There are similar opportunities to achieve energy savings through the use of variable speed drives.



Michael O'Sullivan, General Manager of Cadbury Ireland in Rathmore, and Ben Noonan, Engineering Manager

One plant that has addressed its energy consumption for motor power and has reaped handsome rewards is Cadbury Ireland in Rathmore, Co Kerry. The plant is one of two Cadbury Ireland production sites in Ireland; the other is in Coolock, Dublin. The Rathmore plant, which produces

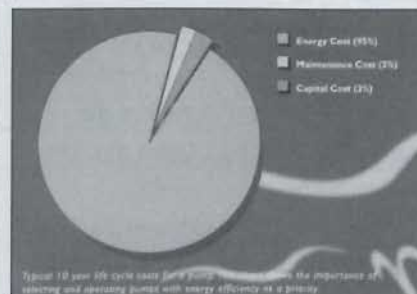
confectionery products, operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Its energy bill is split about half-and-half between heavy fuel oil and electricity.

Cadbury-Schweppes Corporate Environmental Policy is strongly committed to the efficient use of energy, and the Rathmore plant has gone to some lengths to fulfil this commitment. During 1996 and 1997, several energy-saving projects in the area of motive power were initiated on the basis of opportunities identified in an energy audit undertaken in 1995.

"The audit was very well conducted and presented, and it helped me to get the support of important people in the company", said Ben Noonan, Engineering Manager at the plant. "We started with the low cost measures such as changing the fan use patterns in the cooling towers and installing timers. The success of these measures helped us when it came to the projects that required more investment". So far, capital hasn't been a major problem since the measures have produced substantial savings with short payback periods.

The range of measures undertaken include replacing existing motors with new energy-efficient models and installing variable speed drives and soft-starts on a number of pumps and aerators. In addition, a number of sub-meters have been installed to monitor the patterns of energy use more precisely, and identify the potential for further saving. Energy performance is tracked through weekly measurements of oil and electricity consumption per tonne of product produced, and the results from the motive power actions speak for themselves.

In 1996, oil and electricity



consumption per tonne of product both fell by 10%, and in 1997, oil consumption fell by a further 5%, and electricity by a further 3%. These figures illustrate the reductions that can be achieved through a concerted drive to improve efficiency in this area, and the success of the programme has not gone unnoticed. The Rathmore plant has been awarded this year's ESB Eta award for efficient use of motive power.

As experience at Rathmore has illustrated, there is huge potential for energy saving in the area of motive power. Indeed, it is an area that should be tackled by all industries that are seriously committed to reducing energy consumption.

The vital importance of design and purchasing decisions in getting the best value from equipment and keeping running costs to a minimum can be illustrated by examining the cost breakdown for a typical pump over its 10 year life span – energy costs account for some 95% of total costs, while the initial capital costs account for just 3% of total costs.

The Irish Energy Centre has published a Good Practice Guide for Motive Power Applications, which discusses in more detail aspects of achieving energy savings in this area. The guide is available free of charge from the Irish Energy Centre.

Oil & Gas Grand Opening

Following our recent report (BSNews April '98) on Oil & Gas Services Ltd's plans to move into new premises immediately adjoining their former building in Sandymount, the official transfer took place earlier this month and our photographer was on hand to

capture the festivities which marked the formal opening by Mr Ruairi Quinn, TD, Leader of the Labour Party. Approximately 100 people attended on the evening. They were made up of a broad cross-section of people including customers, neighbours,



Michael McEvoy, Esso
with Seamus Rigney and Oliver McNally,
DHOC



Ruairi Quinn, TD, cutting the tape to mark the official opening of Gas & Oil Services new premises in Sandymount. On his left are Rowland, Alacoque and Gerry Griffin with Seamus Rigney to the background on the right.



Dave Westby with Colm O'Connor, Sonya O'Brien, Ruairi Quinn, Helen O'Hare and Alacoque Griffin.



Architect Patrick Shaffrey with Ruairi Quinn and Gerry Griffin.



Gerry Griffin with William Carroll and Pat O'Connor.

friends, competitors, associates and suppliers.

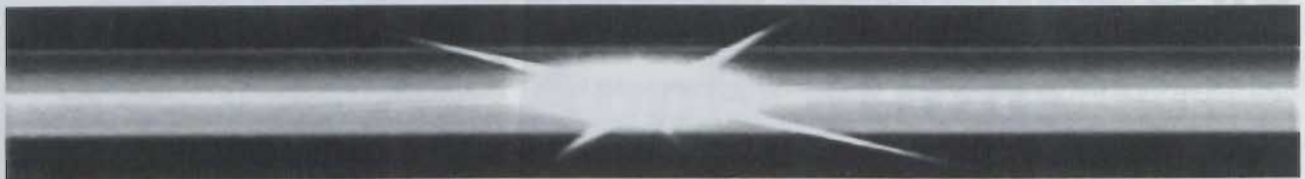
Among those present were Bord Gais colleagues Padraig Coughlan, Pat Walsh and Eamon McGlade; Derek Patterson of Davies of Fairview; Donal Collins, Barlo Group; Kevin Sullivan, Chadwicks; Frank Gilsenan, Gas & Oil Parts; Willie Thompson, Precision Heating; Michael McEvoy, Esso; and Oliver McNally, Domestic Heating Oil Council.



Rowland Griffin with Derek Patterson, Davies of Fairview.



Left: Director and Service Manager Colm O'Connor (seated) with William Gibney; Mark McQuaid; Donal Darling; James Crockford; Dave Westby; and James Jordan.



Copper ... For Peace of Mind

Copper has been the material of choice for domestic plumbing and heating systems in Ireland for over 40 years. The introduction of new materials has given installers the opportunity to try different plumbing systems. This has helped remind them of the advantages of the material they originally trained with, and the reasons why copper has been the predominant plumbing material for so long.

The European Copper Plumbing Promotion Campaign (ECPPC) was founded to raise awareness of copper's benefits throughout Europe and underline to the industry's commitment to the highest standards of product and service provision. Installers often take copper's strengths for granted and the ECPPC seeks to remind installers and specifiers why copper is the professional's choice.

For example, copper is extremely versatile. It can be used for gas and wet central heating jobs, as well as almost every type of plumbing installation.

Copper is strong, it bends easily, and systems can be assembled both on and off-site. You can solve just about any problem with copper and rely on the result.

Copper's popularity is based on a combination of properties that make it

unique. Top of the list is its ability to handle extremes of heat ... no problems, no side-effects, no long-term degradation. Equally important is copper's resistance to corrosion and high-water pressure. It doesn't burn, it keeps its shape and strength in high temperature environments, and it gives long life in service. It all adds up to peace of mind.

Copper is also non-permeable, giving excellent protection against contaminants to domestic water supply. Nothing can get through ... no fluids, no germs, no oxygen, no ultra-violet rays ... nothing. Copper's impermeability to oxygen also helps to protect the other components in a central heating system.

Copper tube also offers excellent

a given outer tube diameter, you get a larger bore. Hence the flow of water through the tube is greater than for comparable non-metallic systems.

The inherent strength of copper also gives it a rigidity which means that it can be installed vertically or horizontally, without sagging and with the minimum use of clips. The self-supporting nature of copper systems makes it easier for one person to install them, and means they are easily able to support pumps, valves and central heating components.

The rigidity factor also enhances the aesthetics of a copper system. Whenever pipework is likely to be surface-mounted, particularly for retrofitting work, copper is the obvious choice.

Installers have relied on copper for decades, it is tried and tested as a material and is invariably used by plumbers in their own homes. It can be used for almost every type of plumbing and heating installation, with no worries about having to return to the

job to repair it.

Copper is the natural choice for professional plumbing and heating work. Whenever the quality counts, people choose copper systems and trained professionals to install them.

It doesn't burn, it keeps its shape and strength in high temperature environments, and it gives long life in service. It all adds up to peace of mind

flow rate benefits. The flow rate through pipework is dependent on the bore, fluid pressures and frictional coefficients. The inherent strength of copper compared with other plumbing and heating materials means that, for



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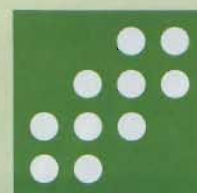
With such a pedigree, little wonder it's the number one integral solder ring fitting in the world today.

Simplicity itself to install, and giving neat and utterly reliable joints, every item in the Yorkshire 'Irish' range is covered by a no-quibble, 25 year product guarantee.

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Vehicle ac – A Serious Proposition for Refrigeration Engineers

Today, around 45% of new cars are supplied with air conditioning factory fitted. With the average manufacturer's warranty lasting for one year, there is going to be a large potential market for the refrigeration engineer who can adapt to tackle the automotive market that will develop within the next couple of years. So says HRP's Ray Nardone.

Until now, refrigeration engineers have not generally viewed vehicle air conditioning as a serious commercial proposition. It has remained the preserve of the specialised automotive engineer.

When refrigeration of air conditioning engineers have turned their hands to repairing vehicle air conditioning, it has often been as a favour to a friend, or as a quick visit on his way home from work.

This is a missed opportunity. It is widely recognised that the refrigeration market is a static, if not shrinking one. Many contractors are looking for new market sectors to replace the now-saturated ones.

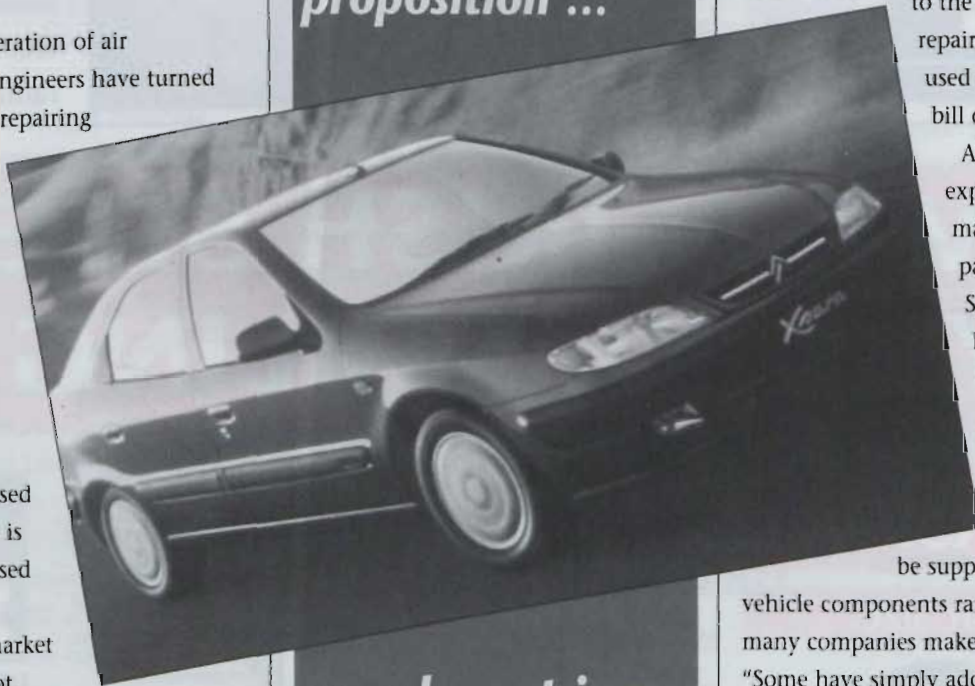
Yet the automotive engineer has for some years been benefiting from profit margins which the refrigeration engineer has passed over. The time is now ripe for engineers to make this

commercial switch for a number of reasons.

Firstly, through HRP there will now be a national network for supplying parts for practically every marque of vehicle, overcoming the need to seek out specialist suppliers, or to go to main vehicle dealers.

With a large refrigeration wholesaler involved, expertise will become an

Vehicle AC is a serious commercial proposition ...



so, why not jump on board.

after sales service, and not a closely-guarded secret, as it might have seemed in the past.

In addition, new ranges of tools for pipework are now available. The

Lokring System, for example, allows joins to be pressure-sealed to air-tight standards previously only achieved with brazing ... not a nice procedure under a confined bonnet.

Another advantage of this market sector is the customer base itself. Granted, there are less likely to be large contracts that will guarantee several weeks work at a stretch, although there may be opportunities for fleet care maintenance.

But this may be outweighed by dealing with customers who are accustomed to bringing their vehicle

to the engineer for repair, and who are used to paying the bill on the spot.

Adapting to exploit this new market needn't be painful. Steve Shaw, Managing Director of VACS (Vehicle Air Conditioning Services), which will

be supplying HRP's new vehicle components range, has seen many companies make the transition. "Some have simply added a picture of a car to their Yellow Pages advert, and then sat back and watched the work roll in", he reports.

Vehicle AC is a serious commercial proposition ... so, why not jump on board.

Contact: Ray Nardone, HRP Wholesale. Tel: 01 - 830 6565.

CIBSE Schools Essay Competition

As part of its celebrations to mark the centenary year, the CIBSE organised an essay competition in the secondary school sector on a national basis. The title of the essay was "The Internal Environment of Buildings" and the intention was to promote building services engineers as a possible career path for those in the 16 to 17-year age profile who would be making a decision about third level options for the commencement of the academic years 1998/1999.

An information pack was prepared and circulated to the career guidance councillors in over 700 secondary schools throughout Ireland. It has to be admitted that the number of



Barry Leech, Lecturer CIT and competition organiser; Ken Beattie, Lecturer DIT; Herbert Taylor, Chairperson CIBSE (Republic of Ireland Branch); Sharon Donegan, 2nd Prize; Mauve Shephard, 1st Prize; John Prendergast, 3rd Prize; Dr Geoffrey Brundrett, President CIBSE; Patrick Kelleher, Director CIT; and Tony Fitzpatrick, Head, Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, CIT.

responses received was most disappointing but the quality was of a very high standard. However, it is encouraging to note that there has been a significant increase in those taking building services engineering as an option for third level entry in September 1998.

The winning contestants were: Mauve Shephard from Galway (1st Prize); Sharon Donegan from Kilkenny (2nd Prize); and John Prendergast from Tipperary (3rd Prize). Each of the three winners received a medallion with the CIBSE logo and £500, £300 and £200 respectively.

A technical evening was hosted in late February by the Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) at which the winning participants received their prizes from Dr Geoffrey Brundrett, President of CIBSE. Mr Ken Beattie, Lecturer at Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) delivered a very well received paper on "Building Services Engineering - Protecting the Environment". The evening concluded with the presentation of a plaque made by Dr Brundrett to Patrick Kelleher, Director of the Cork Institute of Technology, to mark its contribution to building services education over the years.



Centenary Year Book

The CIBSE has published a book to celebrate its centenary year. It will be launched at the CIF, Federation House, Canal Road, Dublin 6, on 17 June next at 6.30pm.

The book is a celebration of 100 years of CIBSE, the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (1897 - 1997), and contains, in particular, wide-ranging articles on various aspects of the art, science and practice of building services engineering in the Republic of Ireland.

The subject matter covers the history of the Institution and that of a number of its notable membership during the last century. Developments in solar heating, combined heat and power (CHP), lamps, emergency lighting, clean rooms, conservation, quality assurance and the Internet are included, along with the role of education in the academic and practical training of young practitioners.

Many of the activities of the Republic of Ireland Branch of CIBSE during the Centenary Year have been recorded pictorially, and photos and text alike capture the vibrant ethos of the Branch.



Pictured at Seamus Homan's "Chilled Ceiling Air Conditioning" presentation were Kevin Ryan, Greg Traynor, Seamus Homan and Jim Curley.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL HEATING EQUIPMENT

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WARM AIR HEATING



RADIANT HEATING



FLUE SYSTEMS



ENERGY SAVING

BTU Powerscourt Results

Sponsored by Coolair

This excellent course was the venue for the May outing, and proved to be a very popular choice with the members. There was a large turnout, with 61 players enjoying the benefit of sunshine and high temperatures throughout the day.

It appears that some of the internal temperatures went ever higher at times when the rough was found to be at least 12" high (pure jungle). Many a ball disappeared never to be found again.

There was even a report of a club going missing. How that happened to get into the rough is anybody's guess, and was not explained.

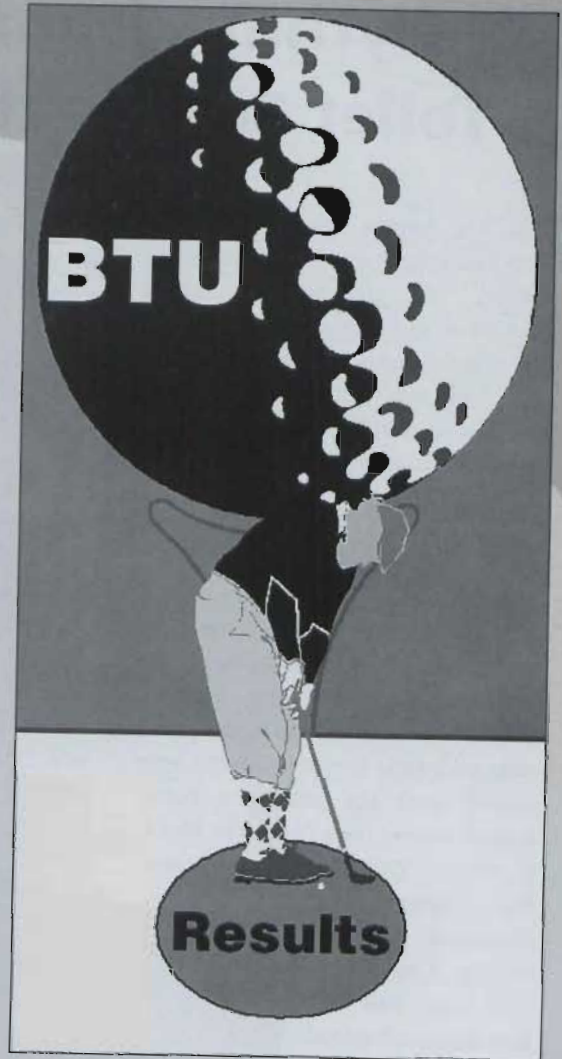
Mick Matthews was this month's winner of the Silver Jubilee Medal, with a great score of 37 points, playing off 8.

The Honorary Secretary, who seems to improve with age, was again just pipped, finishing one slot off the winner. He looked very good though, beautifully coordinated as usual, announcing himself as winner of Class 1, with a large grin on his face.

Our next outing – President's Prize – is scheduled for Newlands on 19 June and we look forward to a large turnout.

Timesheet is available from John Lawlor.

Please bear in mind that all matchplay 2nd round results are to be given to Brendan Keaveny before the Newslands outing.



Results – Powerscourt 19 May

Overall Winner :

M Matthews (8) 37pts

Class 1

J Lavelle (10) 36pts

T Delaney (11) 35pts

S Smith (11) 34pts

Class 2

J Smith (13) 33pts

V Broderick (12) 32pts

B Bracken (12) 32pts

Class 3

D Cranson (16) 34pts

D McMenamin (18) 34pts

J Loughlin (16) 32pts

Back 9

M Kennedy (10) 19pts

J Hunter (13) 19pts

Front 9

E Walsh (16) 20pts

B Keaveny (8) 19pts

Matchplay Draw – 2nd Round

J Lavelle v J White

B Bracken v N Ryan

G Hutchinson v M Carroll

B Daly v D Prendergast

A Moriarty v B Keaveny

M Matthews v G Phelan

S Smith v T O'Leary

J Smith v M Wyse

Everything from the Kitchen Sink to a Toilet Seat with Barbed Wire Inlaid!

The 31st Mostra Convegno building services exhibition held recently in Milan, was arguably the largest exhibition of its kind worldwide. Held on alternate years, the opening of four new halls may well have seen Mostra leapfrog its rival ISH, to offer the trade a total of 32 exhibition halls and over 2,600 exhibitors.

"Green" issues are always news in Europe and new from German manufacturer Hansa was the Cobra, a water saving proximity electronic tap and the Hansa-eco fuel-saving single-lever tap cartridge. This offers a resistance at half flow. Up to this point, only cold water flowed. With the lever control past the resistance point, normal mixing takes place. The idea is to reduce overall water use and to save hot water on occasional hand rinsing. Like many good ideas, this will have to be understood and used properly by consumers to have the desired effect.

As European harmonisation progresses, it is likely that European flush valves will become the order of the day. An example of the quality end of this market seen at Mostra was the Swiss-made Geberit Twico drop valve which has been adopted by many European sanitaryware manufacturers. Offering a dual flush of three litres and a full flush of either six or nine litres with a built in filling valve and height adjustable overflow, the Twico is claimed to fit almost any make or size of toilet cistern.

Another area where change may be

felt is in unvented DHW systems. A growing lobby against the expansion vessel on grounds of bacterial risk may well see the adoption of more liberal European practices which many manufacturers would welcome on cost reduction alone.

The two new unvented water storage cylinders just unveiled under the Ariston brand by MTS would benefit if such changes were made. The Contract range comes in two formats. Direct electric models are offered in two sizes — a 100-litre model with a single 3kW immersion heater, and a 200-litre model with two. Two indirect models with capacities of 125 litres and 200 litres have a fast-action heating coil which can

be piped via gas or oil fired boilers. These have a back-up 3kW heating element, thermostat and single or twin sacrificial anodes.

More upmarket, Comfort unvented cylinders are indirect only with a new "dry" heating element not in direct contact with the water. This can be serviced without draining down and is claimed to offer a solution to limescale problems in hard water areas.

The MTS display was the largest and most impressive at the show, reflecting its importance in the European market. Not content with a conventional stand, the company had taken over Hall 16, a complete 2-story exhibition hall with a massive 4,500 sq m of floor space.

Vokera boilers, marketed under the Beretta brand in Italy, have just launched the "Green" 25kW condensing combi boiler for domestic use. This has a new heat exchanger made from aluminium and silicon which is said to have a heat exchanger surface eight times greater than traditional designs. A patented flue path layout is claimed to maximise heat recovery and in condensing mode, efficiency is rated at 97%.

This boiler has electronic ignition and microprocessor control. A useful option is an outdoor temperature sensor linked to the boiler to regulate the heating system and compensate for changes in the ambient temperature.

A new combi previewed on the Vokera stand is the Linea. This boiler has a patented gas modulation system and a new electronic water temperature control to cope with fluctuating water pressures. The current move

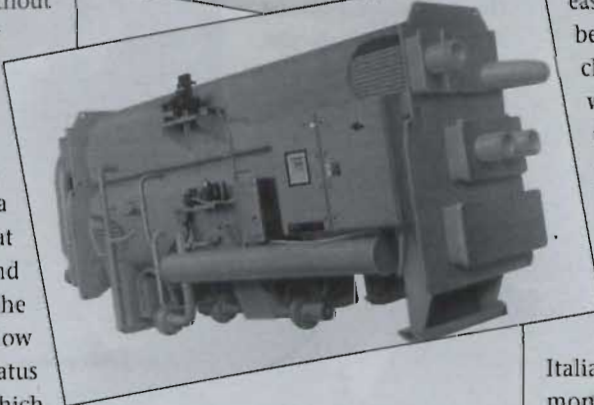


towards fitting diagnostics has been taken one stage further with a built-in self-test system that can identify certain operating problems without the expense of calling out an engineer. Offered in open vent and room sealed with powered flue options, the Linea comes in 24kW and 28kW formats.

A type of combi favoured in Italy is the "balcony boiler". Fitted outside the dwelling in a weather-proof or security casing, these have a control box inside for the householder to programme the system. The advantage is that servicing can be carried out without needing access to the dwelling, an idea that might be worth considering for sheltered or public housing.

Neoperl, well known for its flow straighteners, showed a new idea in service valves. This was a ball valve incorporating a flow regulator which could be serviced in situ through a side access point, without breaking the pipework or isolating the rest of the system. Another unusual idea, this time from Italian heating and air-conditioning controls maker BPT, was the TH/200 On Line – a talking, programmable thermostat which can be interrogated and programmed by telephone. The remote commands available allow control of temperature, system status and two auxiliary channels, which could be used for lighting etc. A synthesised voice responds to the commands and allows the daily or weekly programming of the heating or air-conditioning system.

Air conditioning is now in the Halls 15 and 16, a good healthy walk in the fresh air from the rest of the show. In Hall 15, Trane showed its Horizon range of absorption units. The ABDA offers gas cooling and the ABTF has two stages, with production of hot and cold water. These are manufactured in a power range from 1,300 to 2,000kW and form the first phase of the Horizon programme. This introduces some interesting innovations. The ABDA has a low NOx burner and has



simultaneous heating and cooling in separate circuits so the cooling circuit does not need to be emptied during heating.

In Hall 16, Carrier launched its new Global ceiling-mounted cassette aimed at the light commercial market. This is an all new design which is slimmer and lighter. The new Global cassette can be operated using an infra-red remote control unit which is claimed to operate up to six independent units in one zone, and a maximum of 32 linked split cassette systems.

Back in the heating halls, Irsap demonstrated its Tesi steel column radiators. These are gaining popularity in Europe as low cost, lightweight

alternatives to cast iron for refurbishment work. Tubes of different lengths are welded into pre-pressed top and bottom segments. Heights can vary from 20cm up to 2.5 metres and segments can be joined in almost any length, or welded to form corners or curves. Outputs now comply to EN442 and adapters are available to connect direct to aluminium of cast iron fittings for "size for size" existing radiator replacements. A wide range of colours is available in both smooth and also rough 'cast iron' painted finishes.

Nordica showed the Ecologica wood stove. This uses a self feeding system using a hopper filled with small cylindrical reconstituted compressed wood pellets. Supplied in easy-to-handle bags, they are said to be cleaner, longer-burning and cheaper to run than conventional wood. CO2 emissions are claimed to be so low that a horizontal flue pipe straight through the wall and fitted with a cowl is a sufficient vent.

The growing popularity of ball control valves in the UK would seem to be due to the Italian manufacturers who seem to monopolise production of these products. Siral caught our eye with a wide range of valves, including greaseless models suitable for food production or oxygen control; gas valves to the new EN331 standard; and a 3-way ball valve useful as a vent valve for boilers systems.

As a 'tail piece' as it were, on our way through the bathroom halls we saw a company called Tibiesse, who showed a toilet seat with barbed wire inlaid in clear acrylic round ... definitely a message not to linger! However, Mostra Convegno is well worth the visit, so for those who like to book early, the next one will be after the millennium, from the 22nd to the 26th March, 2000. ■

Mitsubishi Electric Las Vegas Casino Night

While it was the Las Vegas Casino Night, the venue was actually the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. Nonetheless, it may well have been Las Vegas, such was the excitement and frenetic betting activity on the evening. The occasion was the Mitsubishi Electric Environmental Control Systems Division annual casino night and, as usual, the the atmosphere was electric.

Approximately 120 engineers, consultants, architects and other specifiers from the Dublin and the greater Leinster region participated, Mitsubishi Electric dealers involved being Harmon Air Conditioning, Reconair, Glowtherm, Tempair, REL, Environmental Control Systems and Anglo Refrigeration.

Mike Sheehan and his colleagues hosted the occasion in typical fashion, the general consensus of those who enjoyed their hospitality being that, once again, the occasion had proved an excellent night's fun and entertainment.



Photo 4:
Paul Sexton, Mitsubishi Electric with Pat Melia and Tom Marron.



'An excellent night's fun and entertainment'

Photo 1:
Joy for some ... agony for others, as the finalists battle it out.

Photo 2:
Overall winner on the night Gareth Baker, Delap & Waller, receiving his prize from Fergus Madigan, President, Mitsubishi Electric, Europe and Mike Sheehan, Manager, Environmental Control Systems Division.



Photo 3:
Paul Sambrooks, McKenna Engineering, receiving his prize from Fergus Madigan.

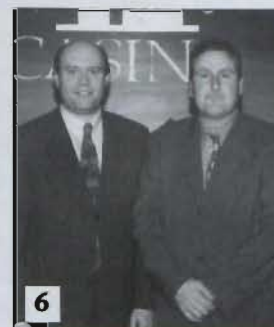


Photo 5:
Mike Sheehan with Shane Murphy, RN Murphy, Sean Carroll, Glowtherm and Jim Fogarty.

Photo 6:
Mike Sheehan with John Harmon.

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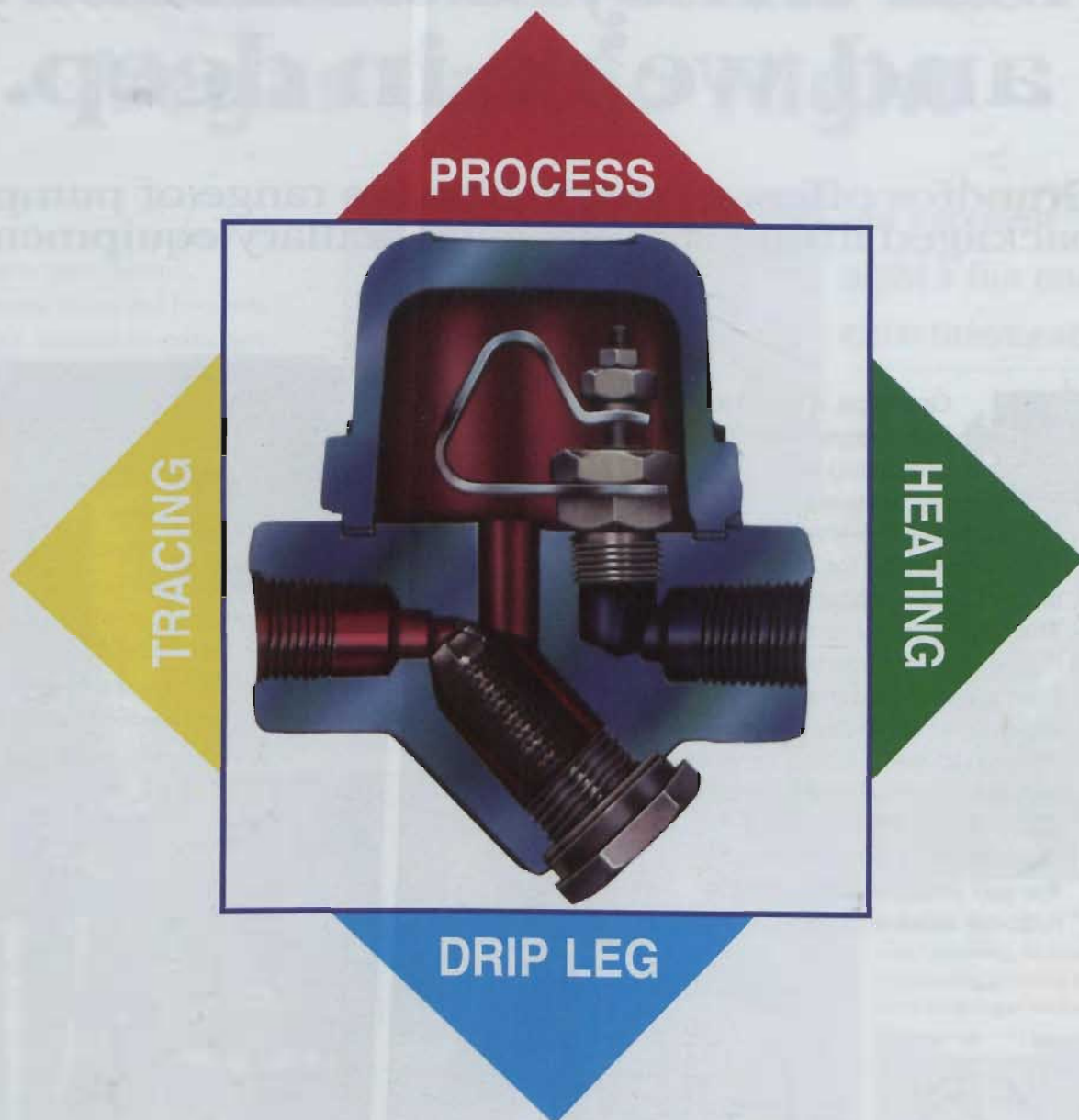
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